

# WOLFE TONE.

His Capture, Trial and Execution One Hundred Years Ago.

One of the Heroes of 1798—Patriot, Orator, Soldier and Martyr.

Sacrificed His Wealth, Family, Friends, Honors and Life to Liberate His Country.

HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE JUDGES.

On September 20, 1798, Theobald Wolfe Tone sailed with a small fleet under Admiral Bomparr, and on the 10th of October but four of the vessels arrived off Lough Swilly. At daybreak next morning, before they could effect a landing, a superior British fleet, under Sir John Borlase Warren, appeared on the horizon. Bomparr determined to fight the Hoche to the last, but signaled the frigates and schooner to retreat through the shallow water.

A boat came from the Biche for last orders, when the French officers entreated Tone to escape on board of her—"Our contest is hopeless, we shall be prisoners of war, but what shall become of you?" "Shall it be said," he indignantly replied, "that I fled whilst the French were fighting the battles of my country?"

For six hours the Hoche engaged five sail of Admiral Warren's fleet, Tone commanding one of the batteries with the utmost coolness and bravery. At length the ship struck, after she had become a dismantled wreck, with five feet of water in her hold, and the cockpit full of dead and dying.

All the French squadron were ultimately taken with the exception of two frigates, and the Biche, in which Tone might have escaped. The captive officers were landed and marched to Letterkenny, where the Earl of Cavan invited them to breakfast. It was believed that Tone was among them. Sir George Hill entered the room, followed by some soldiers, recognized Tone, and said: "Mr. Tone, I am very happy to see you." Tone replied with composure: "Sir George, I am happy to see you; how are Lady Hill and your family?"

On being removed to another room, and finding handcuffs about to be placed on him, he flung off his uniform coat, saying: "These fetters shall never degrade the revered insignia of the free nation which I have served." Resuming his composure, he held out his hands, and added: "For the cause which I have embraced I feel prouder to wear these chains than if I were decorated with the Star and Garter of England." He was taken under an escort of dragoons to Londonderry, and thence to Dublin, where was placed in the provost prison at the Royal Barracks.

On the 10th of November a court martial was called to try him. Tone appeared in his French uniform, and delivered the following speech, which we copy from his life by his son:

"The time of my father's trial was deferred a few days by the officers appointed to sit on the court martial receiving marching orders. At length, on Saturday, November 10, 1798, a new court was assembled, consisting of Gen. Loftus, who performed the functions of president; Cols. Vandeleur, Lally and Wolfe, Major Armstrong and a Capt. Curran. Mr. Patterson performed the functions of Judge Advocate. Tone appeared in the uniform of a Chef de Brigade (Colonel). The firmness and cool serenity of his whole deportment gave to the awestruck assembly the measure of his soul. Nor could his bitterest enemies, whatever they deemed of his political principles and of the necessity of striking a great example, deny him the praise of determination and magnanimity.

The members of the court having taken the usual oath, the Judge Advocate proceeded to inform the prisoner that the court martial before which he stood was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant of the Kingdom to try whether he had or had not acted traitorously and hostilely against his Majesty, to whom as a natural born subject he owed all allegiance, from the very fact of his birth in that kingdom, and, according to the usual form, he called upon him to plead guilty or not guilty.

Tone—I mean not to give the court any useless trouble, and wish to spare them the idle task of examining witnesses. I admit all the facts alleged, and only request leave to read an address which I have prepared for this occasion.

Col. Daly—I must warn the prisoner that in acknowledging those facts he admits, to his prejudice, that he has acted traitorously against his Majesty. Is such his intention?

Tone—Stripping this charge of the technicality of its terms, it means, I presume, by the word "traitorously" that I have been found in arms against the soldiers of the King in my native country. I admit this accusation in its most extended sense, and request again to explain to the court the reasons and motives of my conduct.

The court then observed that they would hear his address, provided he confined himself within the bounds of moderation. He rose and began in these words:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Court-martial: I mean not to give you the trouble of bringing judicial proof to convict me legally of engaging in hostility to the Government of his Britannic Majesty in Ireland. I admit the fact. From my earliest youth I have regarded the connection between Ireland and Great Britain as the curse of the Irish nation, and felt convinced that, while it lasted, this country could never be free nor hap-

py. My mind has been confirmed in this opinion by the experience of every succeeding year, and the conclusions which I have drawn from every fact before my eyes. In consequence I determined to apply all the powers which my individual efforts could move in order to separate the two countries.

That Ireland was not able herself to throw off the yoke I know. I therefore sought for aid wherever it was to be found. In honorable poverty I rejected offers which, to a man in my circumstances, might be considered highly advantageous. I remained faithful to what I thought the cause of my country and sought in the French Republic an ally to rescue three millions of my countrymen, from—

[The President here interrupted the prisoner, observing that this language was neither relevant to the charge nor such as ought to be delivered in a public court. One member said it seemed calculated only to inflame the minds of a certain description of people (the United Irishmen), many of whom might probably be present; and that, therefore, the court ought not to suffer it. The Judge Advocate said he thought that if Mr. Tone meant this paper to be laid before his Excellency in way of extenuation it must have quite a contrary effect, if any of the foregoing part was suffered to remain.]

Tone—I shall urge this topic no further since it seems disagreeable to the court, but shall proceed to read the few words which remain.

Here Tone was interrupted by the President, who would not allow him to read the passage, which he considered inflammatory. In the Cornwallis Papers, volume 2, page 35, the suppressed passage is, however, given as follows:

"I have labored in consequence to create a people in Ireland by raising three millions of my countrymen to the rank of citizens. I have labored to abolish the infernal spirit of religious persecution by uniting the Catholics and Dissenters. To the former I owe more than ever can be repaid; the services I was so fortunate as to render them they rewarded munificently. But they did more. When the public cry was raised against me, when the friends of my youth swarmed off and left me alone, the Catholics did not desert me—they had the virtue even to sacrifice their own interests to a rigid principle of honor. They refused, though strongly urged, to disgrace a man who, whatever his conduct toward the Government might have been, had faithfully and conscientiously discharged his duty toward them, and in so doing, though it was in my own case, I will say they showed an instance of public virtue and honor of which I know not whether there exists another example."

Gen. Loftus—If the remainder of your address, Mr. Tone, is of the same complexion with what you have already read, will you not hesitate, for a moment, in proceeding, since you have learned the opinion of the Court?

Tone—I believe there is nothing in what remains for me to say which can give any offence. I mean to express my feelings and gratitude toward the Catholic body, in whose cause I was engaged.

Gen. Loftus—That seems to have nothing to say to the charge against you, to which only you are to speak. If you have anything to offer in defense or extenuation of that charge the Court will hear you; but they beg that you will confine yourself to that subject.

Tone—I shall then confine myself to some points relative to my connection with the French army. Attached to no party in the French Republic, without interest, without money, without intrigue, the openness and integrity of my views raised me to a high and confidential rank in its armies. I obtained the confidence of the Executive Directory, the approbation of my generals, and I venture to add, the esteem and affection of my brave comrades. When I review these circumstances I feel a secret and internal consolation which no reverse of fortune, no sentence in the power of this court to inflict, can ever deprive me of or weaken in any degree. Under the flag of the French Republic I originally engaged, with a view to save and liberate my own country. For that purpose I have encountered the chances of war among strangers; for that purpose I have repeatedly braved the terrors of the ocean, covered, as I knew it to be, with the triumphant fleets of that power which it was my glory and my duty to oppose. I have sacrificed all my views in life; I have courted poverty; I have left a beloved wife, unprotected, and children whom I adored, fatherless. After such sacrifices in a cause which I have always conscientiously considered as the cause of justice and freedom, it is no great effort at this day to add "the sacrifice of my life."

But I hear it said that this unfortunate country has been a prey to all sorts of horrors. I sincerely lament it. I beg, however, it may be remembered that I have been absent four years from Ireland. To me these sufferings can never be attributed. I designed, by fair and open war, to procure the separation of the two countries. For open war I was prepared; but if instead of that a system of private assassination has taken place, I repeat, while I deplore it, that it is not chargeable on me. Atrocities, it seems, have been committed on both sides. I do not less deplore them; I detest them from my heart; and to those who know my character and sentiments I may safely appeal for the truth of this assertion. With them I need no justification.

In a case like this success is everything. Success, in the eyes of the vulgar, fixes its merits. Washington succeeded and Kosciusko failed. After a combat nobly sustained, a combat which would have excited the respect and sympathy of a generous enemy, my fate was to become a prisoner. To the eternal disgrace of those who gave the order I was brought hither in irons, like a felon. I mention this for the sake of others; for me I am indifferent to it; I am aware of the fate which awaits me, and scorn equally the tone of complaint and that of supplication.

As to the connection between this

country and Great Britain, I repeat it, all that has been imputed to me—words, writings and actions—I here deliberately avow. I have spoken and acted with reflection and on principles and am ready to meet the consequences. Whatever be the sentence of this court, I am prepared for it. Its members will surely discharge their duty; I shall take care not to be wanting in mine."

This speech was pronounced in a tone so magnanimous, so full of a noble and calm serenity, as seemed deeply and visibly to affect all its hearers, the members of the court not excepted. A pause ensued of some continuance, and silence reigned in the hall, till interrupted by Tone himself, who inquired whether it was not usual to assign an interval between the sentence and execution. The Judge Advocate answered that the voices of the court would be collected without delay, and the result transmitted forthwith to the Lord Lieutenant. If the prisoner, therefore, had any further observations to make, now was the moment.

Tone—I wish to offer a few words relative to one single point—to the mode of punishment. In France our Emigres, who stand nearly in the same situation in which I suppose I now stand before you, are condemned to be shot. I ask that the court should adjudge me the death of a soldier, and let me be shot by a platoon of grenadiers. I request this indulgence, rather in consideration of the uniform which I wear, the uniform of a Chef de Brigade in the French army, than from any personal regard to myself. In order to evince my claim to this favor, I beg that the court may take the trouble to peruse my commission and letters of service in the French army. It will appear from these papers that I have not received them as a mask to cover me, but that I have been long and bona fide an officer in the French service.

Judge Advocate—You must feel that the papers you allude to will serve as undeniable proofs against you.

Tone—Oh, I know it well. I have already admitted the facts, and I now admit the papers as full proofs of conviction.

[The papers were then examined. They consisted of a brevet of Chef de Brigade, from the Directory, signed by the Minister of War; of a letter of service, granting to him the rank of adjutant-general, and of a passport.]

Gen. Loftus—In those papers you are designated as serving in the army of France.

Tone—I did serve in that army when it was commanded by Bonaparte, by Desaix, by Klimeine, who is, as I am, an Irishman. But I have also served elsewhere.

Requested if he had anything further to observe, he said that nothing more occurred to him, except that the sooner his Excellency's approbation of their sentence was secured the better. He would consider it as a favor, if it could be obtained in an hour.

Gen. Loftus then observed that the court would undoubtedly submit to the Lord Lieutenant the address which he had read to them, and also the subject of his last demand. In transmitting the address he, however, took care to efface all that part of it which he would not allow to be read, and which contained the dying speech and last words of the first apostle of Irish union and martyr of Irish liberty, to his countrymen. Lord Cornwallis refused the demand of my father, and he was sentenced to die the death of a traitor in forty-eight hours, on November 12.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH FAIR.

The fair for the benefit of St. Brigid's church, which was opened on last Monday evening, promises to be a great success. The fact that the choir of the city churches have volunteered their services is having a most salutary effect. As the fair progresses the attendance each evening appears to increase. On Monday night even, the first night of the fair, notwithstanding the rain, the attendance was very good.

The decorations of the fair room, which were conducted under the direction of Miss Mary Barrett, Mesdames J. C. Feller, Gretzer, Mitchell, Riester, Donahue, Miller, B. Hannon, Fred C. Feller and Miss Maggie Barrett are really beautiful. So numerous have been the presents that the ladies have found it necessary to add two more tables to the ones already erected. They will be known as the Grant and Sherman tables and will be in charge of Mrs. B. Hannon, Miss Norah Hannon, Mrs. F. C. Feller and Miss Maggie Barrett.

On the whole a most pleasant and enjoyable evening can be spent with the good ladies of St. Brigid's.

INHERITED HIS MOTHER'S SPELLING.

A teacher in one of the schools in Cardiff received the following note from one of her pupils:

"Dear Miss Jones—Please excuse me little Tommy for his absence yesterday, as he was kwite ill, and the doctor told me to keep him in bed. So I let him stay home. "Yours respectfully, MISS SMITH."

The teacher was a trifle suspicious. "Tommy," said she, sternly, "who wrote this note?"

"My—er—ma did, if you please, ma'am."

"Well I must say that some of that spelling is remarkably like the spelling you give me."

The little fellow was equal to the occasion.

"Yes, ma'am," said he, cheerily, "every one says that as far as spellin' is concerned, I am the dead image of my ma."

REMARKS ON ADAM AND EVE.

The following remark of a Highland clergyman shows that the Celts in Scotland can lay claim to the faculty of bull-making. In his sermon preached in a small church in Strathpey, after inveighing against slothfulness, he said in closing: "Do you think Adam and Eve went about the Garden of Eden with their hands in their pockets?"

# SPORTING.

The Coming Lansing-Moore Contest—Gossip of the Ball Field.

The Colonels' benefit ought to be a success.

The Orphans ought to make a bid for the pennant next year.

The Louisville Club will begin the season of 1899 with eighteen players.

New Yorkers take little stock in the story that Amie Rusie will figure in a mid-winter deal.

Frank Selee is talking of locating the champions at Durham, N. C., as training quarters for next spring's work.

The St. Louis Browns were done good and brown, losing over three-fourths of the games of the season. Von-der-Ahe-Boom-de-a.

Poor old Cincinnati! When once they got on the toboggan they never stopped. It is hinted that President Harry Pulliam hired somebody to grease it.

They've already condensed Schrecken-gost's name. It was a trifle too large to get on the score cards, and now he is simply Schreck on the Cleveland batting lists.

The Hogan-Bezenah match has been transferred to the Kentucky Athletic Club, on account of an engagement between the clubs to only pull off a match every fifteen days from one and another.

"Young Griffin" has been given until tomorrow in which to leave Chicago. The pugilist promised Justice Martin that he would endeavor to raise sufficient money with which to leave town by that time.

Tom Brown threatens to make a case against Monsieur Lajoie because the Gascon hurled a chunk of volcanic verification at Tom. If Monsieur had made his little speech in French Tom would have no case.

Tommy Dowd is anxious for a change of scenery, as the Mount City is too sporty and lurid for Tommy. If Dowd would quit attempting to lower the tide of distilleries he would fit into several teams in the major league.

Robert Fitzsimmons, the pugilist, has begun suit in New York against Col. Jim Breslin, proprietor of the Gilsey House, to recover \$50,000 damages, by being refused a meal in the restaurant of the hotel and requested to leave the place on last Friday.

"Kid" Lavigne will leave New York soon, prepared to box Tommy Tracey, October 31 in the coast metropolis. Tracey wanted to make the weight 142 pounds, but to that Lavigne would not agree. Lavigne's proposition was for Tracey to weigh 137 and he would go into the ring at 133 pounds. It is likely Lavigne will secure another go with Joe Walcott before he returns East.

There is a great deal of interest in the coming contest between Oscar Gardner and George Dixon. They will make a fine encounter, but it is natural to expect that the cleverness of Dixon will be too much for Gardner. Dixon can hit just as hard as Gardner can, and the probabilities are that he will hit very much oftener. When Dixon is hitting clean, it does not require many of his blows to knock a little man out, and this leads many sporting people to think that if all goes well, Dixon will be the winner when they meet. Gardner is worthy of success, for he is one of the hardest workers in the business and he is also a fine little man to deal with.

James J. Corbett and Thomas J. Sharkey, the sailor fighter, were matched Tuesday night in New York to contest for twenty rounds in the arena of the Lenox Club. The contest is to be for twenty rounds, and is to occur on the night of November 22. The men are to each post \$2,500 with "Honest" John Kelly as stakeholder, the Lenox Club to do the same, as a guarantee of good faith. They are to fight for a purse of \$20,000. Of this sum 75 per cent. is to the winner and 25 per cent. to the loser. There is no hitting in clinches, even with one arm free; the men are to break clean, each to step back several paces without any effort at striking after a clinch and in the breakaway. Each will be permitted to wear bandages of some soft material, and each is permitted to have his gloves made to fit his hand, but each must exhibit his gloves to the other on the day before the fight.

Tom Lansing thinks he will whip Dick Moore in their fight next Monday night. In an interview he said he thought he would be able to dispose of Moore before the expiration of the twenty-fifth round.

Lansing works earnestly every day; takes long runs, skips the rope, punches the bag and boxes with his sparring partner, Jack Dolan. "Mickie" Norton, of Cincinnati, will come down to night and act as Lansing's chief adviser and second. Tom will enter the ring weighing probably 163 pounds, while Moore will weigh in the neighborhood of 165. Both men will be in fine condition. Moore is finishing his training at West Baden and will arrive here tomorrow with Freddie Hogan, his trainer. The preliminary will be between Gus Bezenah and Mack. They are training hard near Cincinnati, and a good curtain-raiser is looked for. This will be a ten-round affair. George Siler, the Chicago referee, will officiate in both contests.

Jim Watts, the local middleweight, and Jim Janey, the hard-hitting Baltimore boxer, will settle their long-standing rivalry before the Louisville Athletic Club, at Music Hall, on October 24. Watts and Janey have been bitter enemies for over a year, and this contest will settle definitely which is the better man. Al. Herford, the stick manager of Janey, secured Watts to give a friendly eight-round exhibition at his club, in Baltimore, one year ago. Watts was having all the best of the set-to, when, in the eighth and last round, Janey landed what is called a "sneak hit," knocking Watts down. The bout was stopped, and Janey put the Louisville boxer on his record,

which Watts claims is unjust to him, and he intends to wipe it out when they meet in this city. Janey is training hard at his home in Washington, D. C., and is confident that he will make short work of Watts. With Ed. Rucker as referee, the audience will have a good chance to see which is the best man. Manager Mulligan has arranged for one of the best ten-round "preliminaries" between Tommy McQuaid and Kid St. Claire that has yet been offered to lovers of the manly art. They are the evenest matched pair that has ever been put on at Music Hall, and the lads will undoubtedly put up one of the fastest mills of the season.

Because Hughie Jennings, who has been putting himself in the way of pitched balls for years, happened to get his nose broken the other day by one of Meekin's inshoots the Baltimore scribes are very indignant. Hughie has just received what everybody thought he would get sooner or later. Here is what a Baltimore paper says of the occurrence: "It looks very much as if Meekin had it in for the Baltimore team. On the last trip he hit McGraw, and in his latest game he started out with hitting McGraw, and then following it up by putting Jennings out of the game. It was a hard accusation to make against a pitcher, but appearances are all against Meekin. A well-known base-ball writer said tonight: 'I don't see Meekin hitting anybody but the players on your team.' A player formerly connected with the New York team said: 'When I was with New York I used to hear Bill Joyce often remark to Meekin before a game: 'Don't forget to cop off a couple today, Meek,' and Meekin would say, 'You know me, Bill.' Any pitcher who is up to tricks of this kind deserves to be black-listed.'

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING

Held by Democrats of Eleventh and Twelfth Wards Last Night.

The Democrats of the Eleventh and Twelfth wards held a big meeting last night at Nineteenth and Duncan streets. Hon. Oscar Turner delivered the address of the evening, and the large and enthusiastic crowd of Democrats assembled to hear him speaks well for the success of the Democratic ticket in November. Mr. Turner was followed by other good speakers, and the audience was fully impressed with the necessity of sending a good Democrat to the next Congress.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Boone Square Turner Club, an organization of hustling young Democrats who are rapidly pushing to the front, and who bid fair to become the banner club of Democracy in the city. The President, Mr. J. Lawler, is a sterling Democrat, widely and favorably known. He is ably assisted by a staff of energetic young Democrats, who leave nothing undone to make their meetings interesting.

A cordial invitation is extended to every one to visit the club every Friday night at Lawler's Hall, Nineteenth and Duncan, where they will find a good time awaiting them.

RECENT DEATHS.

Frank Riley, a pioneer of Franklin township, Harrison county, Ind., died last week, aged seventy-eight years. He leaves a wife and four children.

Miss Mollie Cummings died at the home of her father, 1222 West Walnut, early Sunday morning. She was buried from Sacred Heart church Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Rachel McAuley, widow of the late Bernard McAuley, who built and for several years managed McAuley's Theater in this city, died in New York last Monday morning, aged fifty-six years. She was a native of this city. She made her first appearance on the stage in Boston in 1862 and played each season after that until shortly after her husband, Bernard McAuley, took charge of Wood's Theater in Cincinnati, in 1868. In 1863 and 1864 she was the leading woman at Pike's Opera-house in Cincinnati, and later she starred in such plays as "Romeo and Juliet," "The Hunchback" and other legitimate dramas. In 1865 Mrs. McAuley was married in this city and she subsequently starred with her husband for several seasons. Since her widowhood, ten or twelve years ago, she had made New York her home, and had devoted her time to the management of her business and to club work. She was one of the founders of the Professional Woman's League, a social and philanthropic organization which has been the salvation of many a struggling young woman with aspirations beyond her ability. Mrs. McAuley took a lively interest in her club work, and befriended many actresses, finding engagements for them when they were out of positions, and securing other employment for needy stage-struck girls who had missed their calling. She was also identified with Sorosis, the oldest woman's club in the country, and was prominent in other club and philanthropic work in New York.

Y. M. I.

Mackin Council, No. 105, Y. M. I., entertained their many friends with another of their popular euchres on last Friday evening. The lady's prize, a handsome hand-painted china plate, was won by Miss Katie Schneiderbahn. The gentleman's prize was captured by Mr. Frank Scholtes. The prize was an elegant novelty case.

Mackin Council during the summer has refitted and furnished their already handsome club-rooms and are now better than ever prepared to entertain their many friends. Their social euchres occur every Friday night. Popular Charles Raidy is Chairman of the Reception Committee, and when he is assisted by J. W. Loge, Patrick Bannon, James Duffy, Patrick M. Flynn and Mack Raidy everybody is sure to enjoy themselves. After the euchre a short but thoroughly enjoyable musical programme is usually rendered.



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